

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-03 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 TAR-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 NSC-07 SS-20 AGR-20

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, SP, IS, TS, MO, AG, MT

SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) MEETING, JULY 23:

MANDATE APPROVED FOR MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

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REF: A) BONN 11588 (NOTAL)

B) EC BRUSSELS 5493 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE JULY 22-23 EC COUNCIL MEETING (FOREIGN MINISTERS) PRODUCED FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE MANDATE FOR RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE COMMUNITY'S MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS INCLUDING TARIFF RATES FOR SELECTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED AND MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, AGREEMENT BY THE GERMANS TO WITHDRAW THEIR PROPOSAL CONCERNING REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS, MEETING IN COUNCIL JULY 22-23, HAVE BROKEN THROUGH THE IMPASSE HINDERING PROGRESS IN THE EC MEDITERRANEAN NEGOTIATIONS. NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESUME LATER THIS YEAR WITH SPAIN, ISRAEL AND THE MAGHREB AND WILL BE OPENED WITH MALTA. A REVISED MANDATE FOR THE COMMISSION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN AGREED UPON AS A RESULT OF MEMBER STATE COMPROMISES COVERING THE MAIN ELEMENTS AT ISSUE.

3. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: MINISTERS AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING CHANGES AFFECTING CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN: FRUIT SALAS--CXT TO BE REDUCED FROM PRESENT 22 PERCENT TO 10 PERCENT; ORANGE JUICE--CXT TO BE REDUCED FROM PRESENT 19 PERCENT TO 5.7 PERCENT; GRAPEFRUIT JUICE--CXT TO BE REDUCED FROM PRESENT 15 PERCENT TO 4.5 PERCENT; SPANISH WINE--NO CXT REDUCTION ON SPANISH WINE IMPORTED IN BULK AND APPLICATION OF THE CXT WILL RESULT IN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE UK DUTY ON BOTTLED TABLE WINE FROM SPAIN (THE UK HAD SOUGHT REDUCTIONS ON IMPORTS OF SPANISH WINE); IRISH ONIONS: SEASONAL RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING IRISH ONIONS WERE ADJUSTED TO IRISH SATISFACTION; MINOR PROBLEMS AFFECTING BELGIAN AND ITALIAN TOMATOES WERE ALSO SETTLED. FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING ELEMENTS OF THE SETTLEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WILL FOLLOW CONSULTATION WITH MISSION CONTACTS IN EC COMMISSION AND PERM DELS.

4. GERMAN/IRANIAN OIL PROPOSAL: MUCH TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, THE GERMANS HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR PROPOSAL FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM IRAN, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WILL BE FREE TO RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING. THIS RECENT ISSUE HAD THREATENED TO PROVIDE A NEW AND MORE SERIOUS HURDLE TO EFFORTS TO RESUME THE MEDITERRANEAN NEGOTIATIONS (REFTELS).

5. AID: THE COUNCIL AGREED TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT THE LEVEL OF 360 MILLION UA OVER A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS, WITH MALTA TO SHARE A PROPORTION OF THE ASSISTANCE EQUAL TO THAT OF ALGERIA. OF THE TOTAL OF 360 MILLION, 180 MILLION WILL BE

CHANNELED VIA THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK, 60 MILLION VIA DONATIONS, AND THE REMAINING 120 MILLION BY MEANS OF SOFT LOANS AND TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. DECISIONS AS TO FINANCING OF THIS ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED BUT AS THE ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS TO ONLY 72 MILLION UA PER YEAR NO REAL DIFFICULTY IS FORESEEN.

6. MIGRANT WORKERS: THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN NEGOTIATIONS EACH EC MEMBER STATE WILL BE PERMITTED TO APPLY ITS OWN SOCIAL SECURITY RULES IN ORDER TO SETTLE SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS BY OTHER NATIONALS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMELAND. GREENWALD

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